

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W

----- 041651

R 081141Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20644

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT APPROACHES ONE MILLION IN
NOVEMBER, BUT SEASONAL DECLINE CONTINUES

REF: (A) BONN 20473; (B) BONN 19155

SUMMARY: REF (A) PROVIDED PRELIMINARY DATA ON FRG
UNEMPLOYMENT FOR NOVEMBER. NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
UNEMPLOYMENT AGAIN REGISTERED CLOSE TO THE ONE MILLION
MARK (984,700) FOR A RATE OF 4.3 PERCENT, UP FROM 4.1
PERCENT IN OCTOBER. WORKERS ON PART TIME ALSO IN-
CREASED. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES INDICATE A
FURTHER DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT, REFLECTING A GRADUAL
CYCLICAL IMPROVEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL IS STILL OVER
ONE MILLION. END SUMMARY.

1. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES (NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

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RELEASED BY THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SHOW THAT

UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE IN NOVEMBER BY 41,000 OR 4.3 PERCENT TO 984,700, RAISING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FROM 4.1 TO 4.3 PERCENT. LAST YEAR THE SAME MONTH THERE WERE 1,114,000 UNEMPLOYED (4.9 PERCENT). THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB OPENINGS DECLINED BY 5.2 PERCENT TO 202,100. THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON PART TIME INCREASED BY 27,700 TO 167,700 FROM MID-OCTOBER TO MID-NOVEMBER.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT (ALSO IN NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TERMS) FOR FOREIGN WORKERS ROSE 6,500 OR 7.8 PERCENT OVER OCTOBER LEVELS TO 90,300, THUS BRINGING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AMONG FOREIGNERS UP FROM 4.0 TO 4.3 PERCENT. THIS IS 51,200 OR 36.2 PERCENT LOWER THAN AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.

3. UNEMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH (UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE) ROSE BY 3,100 OR 3.2 PERCENT TO 100,300. FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH, THE NUMBER OF FEMALE UNEMPLOYED EXCEEDED THAT OF MALES (BY A MARGIN OF 503,309 TO 481,190).

4. BROKEN DOWN BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA, UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE IN ALL AREAS BUT VARIED BETWEEN A LOW OF 3.0 PERCENT IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG AND A HIGH OF 5.1 PERCENT IN NIEDERSACHSEN-BREMEN.

5. ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, HOWEVER, UNEMPLOYMENT DID DECLINE DURING NOVEMBER, DOWN 11,000 FROM OCTOBER'S LEVEL TO 1,023,000. FOR COMPARISON, NOVEMBER 1975'S LEVEL WAS 1,129,000. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS A SLIGHT ACCELERATION IN A VERY GRADUAL DOWNWARD TREND UNDERWAY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE RECOVERY IN THE SUMMER OF 1975. CYCLICAL IMPROVEMENT, THEREFORE, CONTINUES TO BE NOTED IN THIS INDICATOR.) ALSO SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB OPENINGS INCREASED BY 7,000 TO 245,000 (AFTER A RISE OF 17,000 IN OCTOBER) FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT MONTH, COMPARED TO 222,000 IN NOVEMBER 1975.

6. IN RELEASING THESE FIGURES, FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICE PRESIDENT, JOSEF STINGL, COMMENTED THAT SEASONAL INFLUENCES ARE AGAIN HAVING A CLEAR IMPACT ON THE LABOR MARKET. THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS EXPECTED SINCE THE NORMAL SEASONAL SLOWDOWN USUALLY INTENSIFIES IN THE LATE FALL. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THE FACT THAT SOME INDICATORS, SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED, JOB OPENINGS AND PLACEMENTS, DECLINED LESS THAN THEY HAD DURING THE SAME MONTH FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

INDICATES THAT THE SLIGHT ECONOMIC UPSWING IS CONTINUING.

7. REACTION TO THE LATEST FIGURES WAS DIVIDED AS USUAL. WHILE SPOKESMEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS

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FOR THE SPD AND FDP COALITION PARTIES STRESSED THE SEASONAL CHARACTER OF THE INCREASE, REFERRING TO THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC UPSWING, CDU VICE CHAIRMAN DR. STOLTENBERG CHARGED THAT THE LATEST DATA DEMONSTRATE THE INABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

8. THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION, WITHOUT COMMENTING SPECIFICALLY ON RECENT UNEMPLOYMENT DATA, WARNED THAT

IT WOULD, BY NO MEANS, PUT UP WITH A "BASE" UNEMPLOYMENT OF 800,000 TO 850,000. THE UNION POINTED OUT THAT IT HAD MADE ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SOLVING THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM BY NEGOTIATING AN ADDITIONAL DAY OF ANNUAL LEAVE INTO ITS COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR OVER 2 MILLION WORKERS IN THE METAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. ACCORDING TO A UNION SPOKESMAN, IF THE

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TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT DOES NOT OFFER MORE WORK FOR ALL, THE WORKERS WHO HAVE A JOB SHOULD SHARE THEIR WORK WITH THEIR UNEMPLOYED COLLEAGUES. THIS COULD BE DONE IN THE FORM OF INCREASING ANNUAL LEAVE, REDUCING THE RETIREMENT AGE, EXTENDING SCHOOL EDUCATION OR INTRODUCING PAID BREAKS DURING WORKING HOURS. THESE COSTS COULD BE BORNE BY THE EMPLOYERS IN VIEW OF THE FAVORABLE PROFIT DEVELOPMENT, HE ARGUED.

STOESSEL

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